

Bare breasted vandals break into LPHS natatorium



Contributed photo/Crime Stoppers

In a still from the security footage captured at the LPHS natatorium, three vandals can be seen leaving. Police hope releasing the video will help identify the vandals.

Thursday, July 12, 2012 By Mike Gunning mike.guning@baytownsun.com

La Porte police have released a surveillance video of three half-dressed vandals who caused extensive damage at La Porte High School over Independence Day.

The shirtless male suspects are seen walking up and down a hallway with their faces covered.

Officials said they broke into the high school's indoor swimming pool around 1:25 a.m. on July 4 by breaking fiberglass window panels, causing damage to the building's exterior. Once inside, the suspects threw wooden chairs and benches into the swimming pool.

La Porte police said the apprehension of the suspects is only a matter of time.

"Our detectives are already hard at work on this case, and hope it may lead to the closure of other recent acts of theft, vandalism, and break-ins" Sgt. John Krueger of the La Porte police department said.

Krueger said the department was looking forward to the public's assistance to close the case.

"While we have provided information of the event to Crime Stoppers and area media outlets, we are expecting the vandals to be easily recognized by either LPHS students, or other local juveniles," Krueger said. "Given the fact that school will be back in session next month, if not apprehended before that time, it shouldn't be long before the suspects are arrested, as our school resource officers will likely join detectives in rooting out the trio."

Krueger said even if those leads don't pan out, time is still on the side of the law.

"Although school is not yet back in session, the statute of limitations on filing charges for criminal mischief is two years, with burglary being five," Krueger said.

"Furthermore, we tout our concerned and heavily-involved La Porte citizens quite often; it should be noted that many of those valuable participants are enrolled in our local schools as well."

Video of the three unidentified males is on Crime Stoppers' YouTube channel at bit.ly/Nh0ucS.